

## North Carolina Textbook Commission Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2022

10:00am

Virtual Only

**Members Present :** Jodi Rae Autry, Kathryn Bailey, Rikki Baldwin, Maria Bishop, Marlena Bleau, Shannon Brayboy, Karina Cameron, Ashton Copley, Jarod Dennis, Monica Douglas, Aubrey Godette, Kathleen Linker, Angela Martin, Matthew McLean, Alicia Ray

**Members Absent:** William Chesher, Melissa Jenkins, Susan Mills, Rob Orrill, Lindsey Sise

**Others Present:** Dr. Carmella Fair

**Call to Order and Welcome:** Commissioner Kathleen Linker began the meeting. She stated that the purpose of this meeting is twofold. First so that the Commissioners can meet the new cohorts that are joining them for the first time today. The second is to elect a new chair. Lastly, would be to go over some last-minute things about the report that we (commissioners) are working on until we meet back as a Commission in September.

**Roll Call:** Dr. Fair did the roll call.

Commissioner Linker continued with the meeting by reading the Ethics Statement after the roll call.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Linker said that they have five different minutes that they need to approve. They have had a couple of small meetings during evaluation that need to be approved. For the new members, Commissioner Linker explained that she gives them a chance to ask questions about each, then they will entertain a motion to accept and then they would need a second motion and afterwards they would vote on those two pieces and then move on to the next minutes.

**June 11, 2022** - Commissioner Ray made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Bleu 2nd the motion. All members in attendance agreed to accept the minutes.

**June 13, 2022** - Commissioner Autry made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Ray 2nd the motion. All members in attendance agreed to accept the minutes.

**June 15, 2022 (10:00am)** - Commissioner Baldwin made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Bleu 2nd the motion. All members in attendance agreed to accept the minutes.

**June 15, 2022 (4:00pm)** - Commissioner Ray made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Baldwin 2nd the motion. All members in attendance agreed to accept the minutes.

**June 16, 2022 (10:00am)** - Commissioner Baldwin made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Ray 2nd the motion. All members in attendance agreed to accept the minutes.

**Introduction of the Commissioners Old and New:** Commissioner Linker said next on the agenda is introductions, which will be out of the norm because they are doing this virtually instead of face-to-face. She will call everyone in alphabetical order and have each person introduce themselves since there are quite a few new members.

Commissioners stated their names and district. Commissioner Kathleen Linker began by introducing herself, then Dr. Fair and the others continued.

Commissioner Alicia Ray, Commissioner Angela Martin (new), Commissioner Ashton Copley (new), Commissioner Aubrey Godette, Commissioner Jared Dennis (new), Commissioner Jodi Autry, Commissioner Karina Cameron (new), Commissioner Kathryn Bailey, Commissioner Marlana Bleau, Commissioner Matthew McLean (new), Commissioner Melissa Jenkins (new), Commissioner Monica Douglas (new), Commissioner Rikki Baldwin, Commissioner Shannon Brayboy (new), Commissioner Maria Bishop (new)

Commissioner Linker welcomed all of the new Commissioners to the group.

**Election of a New Chairperson:** Next on the agenda is to vote for a new chair. Commissioner Linker said that she would like to nominate Dr. Dennis who is the Superintendent of Stanley County Schools. He has experience in leadership at the

state level and superintendency groups. Commissioner Linker asked Dr. Jared Dennis if he accepted the nomination and he replied “yes”. Having accepted the nomination, she asked for the nomination to be accepted. Commissioner Ray 2nd the nomination for Dr. Jared Dennis to be the Chairperson. Commissioner Linker asked Dr. Ray to do the roll call for Commissioners to accept. No votes from Commissioner McLean or Commissioner Godette. All other Commissioners in attendance agreed for the nomination. Commissioner Dennis expressed his gratitude for the nomination and that he looks forward to working with the Commissioners.

**Report:** Commissioner Linker said next they will discuss their report. Any questions and the work that they are currently working on to complete the report. Because it will need to be in its final states when they meet September 19th-20th. The idea is that when they arrive at the meeting you will have your comments and what you think. Yes, it met or no, it did not meet the standards for each submission number. You would also mention some strengths or areas of concern or improvement, basically your rationale or justification for your vote. Knowing that this is not concrete because this is part of the deliberation. As a commissioner they will discuss each bid number separately and we will take time to talk about it and then we vote. The vote is the whole purpose. Our goal is that we have this report and once we leave the meeting the report is submitted to the Board of Education along with our recommended list of approved and not recommended list on the adopted list.

There are two or three things that I really want to make sure everyone is clear about. We had a couple of submissions that were what is called “bundled” together. Commissioner Linker asked if there were any questions? She informed the new commissioners that the debriefing from the advisors are recorded and on the website if they want to go and listen. You also have access to their actual documentations where they went through the standards review and the criteria review for each bid, and you have their information within our platform. Commissioner Douglas said that she will probably be reaching out to Commissioner Linker because she is lost and cannot find what the advisors wrote, she was able to find it one time but cannot get back to it. She also needs to know where to put the submissions in. Commissioner Linker said they can definitely meet, or she can meet with any other returning Commissioner. She said they can meet one on one, but if it is with more than one person it is considered a meeting

and they would have to have a quorum. She said they could either meet through Zoom or Dr. Fair, or the person at TOPS is also very helpful to explain the platform. They can meet with no more than two Commissioners together. Commissioner Brayboy had a question. She was wondering as a new person if she can have a veteran look over what she is doing, and make sure that what she is saying is what needs to go in the report. She wanted to know if they could see what she was putting in. Commissioner Linker said that they cannot see what they are putting in. They can't tell them what to put, but they can give suggestions. For instance, that's enough, or you might want to give a little more information like a general kind of comment, but you would need to be on a zoom with someone where you could share your screen.

Next Commissioner Linker began explaining what “bundling” is in reference to the bids. She logged into the portal to show and explain what a bundle is. They have specific standards because the publishers chose in some cases to bundle a submission and say, here's our submission and they will specify what grades the proposal is for. It has to meet every grade level or in some cases band separately for standards to be considered. For example: Mickey Mouse 4000. If I went to the kindergarten and it met the standards, and it met the standards also for 1st grade, but did not meet the standards for the 2nd or 3rd grade, then as a Commissioner I cannot recommend it. Because it needs to meet each standard for each specific grade, but we only vote on it as one bid. If you see a hyphen then a number that is your queue that they have banded multiple grade levels together. If you have questions about the band, just reach out to one of the veteran commissioners for clarification. Commissioner Jodi Autry added that with the ELD standards, I worked with the advisors all week on the standards, and they are a little different than a typical core standard. You have one book, and they want it looked at through all lenses. So, it's very possible that some books may meet some standards in some grade levels and not necessarily meet the others. ELD was a bear this year because of the standards and the way that they are written and the way that they could translate into the North Carolina State course of Study. Typically, a core class is a little more straightforward. If you're looking at 9th grade math, you're comparing that to 9th grade math. If you're looking at 10 grade math, you're comparing it to 10th grade. It will be a little more straightforward. It was a little confusing with the way that the standards are, and they are also being re-written. If there is any confusion, I don't mind answering those questions because I was with the advisors all week. We worked together as

a group. The main thing we are doing is looking at these materials and making sure that what is being submitted is quality materials for our kids. We want to make sure that those materials are first, meeting those standards. Also, is it appropriate? Is it developmentally appropriate? Is it appropriate for students that age? I look at it not only as a Principal educator, but also as a parent. Is this something I want in front of my students? This is what we are charged with, making sure these things are appropriate for kids. That they have good content, they're aligned to the standards. You also want to look at the other pieces of the puzzle, what's on the page, the wording, pictures. You will see the advisor's comments. Commissioner Linker said to piggyback on that a lot of those other things are in the general criteria review, a lot of the good pedagogical, research practice, teacher support all of that is found on that sheet. It can make standards and not make other requirements on that criteria sheet. The standards are just one part of what's required to be considered for adoption. Commissioner Linker referenced what Commissioner Autry said, there are other things like is it factual? Does it meet the needs of all students? Does it have EC plans? The EC teachers have their own criteria, they don't use standards, but you'll see them on the criteria sheet. They are looking for accessibility and support, etc. The same for social studies, in social studies we have an ECI. As an EL student does it meet the needs of those students? Is there instructional support for an EL student? You'll see that when you click on the submission for your report, that the standards are separate and the criteria at the end.

Commissioner Linker said if we (commissioners) need to have another meeting that would be something that Dr. Dennis can consider as we get closer to September 19th and 20th.

**Next Meeting:** At the next meeting we'll read the ethics statement. We won't have to do the roll call since we will be face to face. It is a public hearing and there will be a place for publishers and members of the public to sit. They do not participate, and they do not engage. We start in alphabetical order with the bids. We first discuss the strengths and then after a brief discussion we vote. Everybody does need to weigh in at some point. The votes will be either Yay or Nay and we vote electronically.

The second part of the meeting is what we call the reconsideration. We deliberate on the initial and if we do not vote as the majority to accept something the

publisher can come back to the commission and make a short presentation that's called the reconsideration where they can provide any additional information that we might not see. Example if we didn't make 80% of the standards, we could find this or this. The publisher could come back the next day and say it was here, and if they convince us, we revoke. If they provide enough information to convince us to change our votes we would vote again. Then we would say based on the information we received by the publisher that you either changed your mind or your vote stays the same. Once that is complete we are finished with the reconsiderations. At that point we prepare to submit the final report, after submission you are blocked out of the platform and unable to get back in to avoid changing or making any modifications after we vote. If you are not able to attend the reconsideration deliberation meeting, you will not be able to vote. Your report is still due and would be due at the end of the deliberation point since you will not be at the re-consideration.

**Adjournment:** Dr. Dennis made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Baldwin 2nd the motion to adjourn the meeting. Majority of Commissioners that were in attendance agreed for the meeting to be adjourned.

**Minutes taken by:** Audrey M. Long

**Date of Approval:** September 19, 2022